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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

DESHPANDE, KALYAN K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/055,162	Applicant(s) WADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Kalyan K. Deshpande	Art Unit 3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/7/01 & 9/23/04</u> <u>8/31/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. The following is a non-final office action in response to the communications received on November 7, 2001. Claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The examiner has reviewed the patents and articles supplied in the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) provided on November 7, 2001, September 23, 2004, and August 31, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear as to the limitations that claim 2 is reciting. For the purposes of examination, claim 2 is interpreted as meaning the event having the ability to display the necessary tools for completing the requested work items.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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6. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schloss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5692125).

As per claim 1, Schloss teaches:

A group work control system for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line, said group work control system comprising:

A file generator which is connected to said network and configured to generate a schedule file in which the schedule of said work steps is written (see column 4 lines 11-67, column 5 lines 1-16, and figures 2 and 3; where an event can be planned. There are required fields (work steps) for the generation and scheduling of the event. Once all of the proper information is submitted, the system generates a schedule.);

A database which is configured to store said schedule file in order that said schedule file is accessible through said network (see column 5 lines 28-44 and figure 1; where an electronic calendar is a database that contains events and event groups. This enables events to be scheduled.); and

An output device which is configured to provide work items to be conducted in the respective work steps on the basis of said schedule file as obtained (see column 3 lines 20-39 and figure 1; where a display

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adapter serves as an output device for displaying the schedule file and all of the work items contained in each schedule).

As per claim 2, Schloss teaches:

A tool executing device which is configured to execute an application program for use in said respective work items on the basis of a tool executing file in which is written tool information necessary when said application program is used to conduct said respective work items (see column 4 lines 11-67, column 5 lines 1-16, see column 7 lines 50-67, column 8 lines 1-7, and figures 2, 3, and 11; where the scheduling file has fields available for additional information. This additional information field can contain any information users would want, including information regarding tools necessary to complete work items).

As per claim 3, Schloss teaches:

The group work control system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output device is provided with a function of displaying guide information about working to be conducted by a user when conducting said respective work items corresponding to said work steps (see column 7 lines 50-67, column 8 lines 1-7, and figure 11; where scheduled events have blocks available for to display information regarding data, worked already performed, or work to be performed.).

As per claim 4, Schloss teaches:

The group work control system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said file generator has a function of registering the works of a project and a function of

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altering a template file which is provided corresponding to said works of the project in which is written a standard work time (see column 5 lines 28-63 and figures 2 and 3; where a project can register with the scheduler to ensure that a date is available for that event. Events can be based off of templates and a user can modify (alter) a template to account for the necessities of the project. A condition of a template can be a schedule time and performance time for selected dates. The schedule time and performance time are the same as the standard work time.)

As per claim 5, Schloss teaches:

The group work control system as claim in claim 1, further comprising:

A logic operation device which his configured to judge whether or not previous works have been finished in advance of said work items as provided (see column 4 lines 41-65, column 9 lines 1-40, and figures 2, 3, 7A, and 12; where the system accounts for dynamic conditions. Dynamic conditions are conditions that need to be met prior to performance of the actual event. The system contains a function that has a Boolean result determining whether the condition is satisfied or not. If the condition is not satisfied, then the even can be adjusted. The adjustment can include modifying or canceling the event. Furthermore, with the scheduled event is displayed all of the previous work items and all of the subsequent work items for the event.); and

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A setup device which is configured to prepare tools required for next work items when the previous works have been finished (see column 4 lines 41-65, column 9 lines 1-40, and figures 2, 7A, and 12; where the system has a prepare to perform time function. This function describes all of the steps necessary to have been completed prior to the work about to be completed.).

As per claim 6, Schloss teaches:

The group work control system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

A file updating device which is configured to update said schedule file when it is confirmed that a user has completed a work item (see column 13 lines 21-67, column 14 lines 1-42, and figures 12A and 12B; where the system checks the dynamic conditions and determines where the conditions have been satisfied or not. The system then updates based on the results of this determination.).

As per claim 7, Schloss teaches:

A group work control method for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line, said group work control method comprising:

Generating a schedule file in which a schedule of said work steps is written (see column 4 lines 11-67, column 5 lines 1-16, and figures 2 and 3; where an event can be planned. There are required fields (work steps)

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for the generation and scheduling of the event. Once all of the proper information is submitted, the system generates a schedule.);

Storing said schedule file in a database accessible through said network (see column 5 lines 28-44 and figure 1; where an electronic calendar is a database that contains events and event groups. This enables events to be scheduled.); and

Displaying work items to be conducted in the respective work steps on the basis of said schedule file (see column 3 lines 20-39 and figure 1; where a display adapter serves as an output device for displaying the schedule file and all of the work items contained in each schedule).

As per claim 8, Schloss teaches:

The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

Storing a tool executing file in which is written tool information necessary when the application program is used to conduct said respective work items (see column 9 lines 11-25 and figures 7A, 7B, 12A and 12B; where an event contains a function or program. This function or program contains information regarding the necessary external conditions and Boolean logic to determine if those conditions have been met.);

Obtaining said tool executing file in response to selection by a user (see column 9 lines 11-25 and figures 7A, 7B, 12A and 12B; where the tool is obtained in the regular sequence of the event. The event is

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selected by the user and the function or program is enabled and executed at the necessary time); and

Executing said application program by said tool executing file (see column 9 lines 11-25 and figures 7A, 7B, 12A and 12B; where the function or program is executed to determine whether the necessary external conditions have been satisfied and to determine which future work item for the event needs to be modified or altered).

As per claim 9, Schloss teaches:

The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

Displaying guide information about working to be conducted by a user when conducting said respective work items corresponding to said work steps (see column 7 lines 50-67, column 8 lines 1-7, and figure 11; where scheduled events have blocks available for to display information regarding data, worked already performed, or work to be performed.).

As per claim 10, Schloss teaches:

The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

When said schedule file is generated registering a development project;

Obtaining a template file which is provided corresponding to said project and in which is written a standard work time (see column 5 lines 28-63 and figures 2 and 3; Events can be based off of templates and a

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user can modify (alter) a template to account for the necessities of the project. A condition of a template can be a schedule time and performance time for selected dates. The schedule time and performance time are the same as the standard work time.); and

Altering said template file when required (see column 5 lines 28-63 and figures 2 and 3; Events can be based off of templates and a user can modify (alter) a template to account for the necessities of the project. A condition of a template can be a schedule time and performance time for selected dates. The schedule time and performance time are the same as the standard work time.).

As per claim 11, Schloss teaches:

The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

Judging whether or not previous works have been finished in advance of said work items as displayed (see column 4 lines 41-65, column 9 lines 1-40, and figures 2, 3, 7A, and 12; where the system accounts for dynamic conditions. Dynamic conditions are conditions that need to be met prior to performance of the actual event. The system contains a function that has a Boolean result determining whether the condition is satisfied or not. If the condition is not satisfied, then the even can be adjusted. The adjustment can include modifying or canceling the event. Furthermore, with the scheduled event is displayed all of the

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previous work items and all of the subsequent work items for the event.);
and

Preparing execution of tools required for the next work items when the previous works have been finished (see column 4 lines 41-65, column 9 lines 1-40, and figures 2, 7A, and 12; where the system has a prepare to perform time function. This function describes all of the steps necessary to have been completed prior to the work about to be completed.).

As per claim 12, Schloss teaches:

The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

Updating said schedule file when it is confirmed that a user has completed a work item (see column 13 lines 21-67, column 14 lines 1-42, and figures 12A and 12B; where the system checks the dynamic conditions and determines where the conditions have been satisfied or not. The system then updates based on the results of this determination.).

As per claim 13, Schloss teaches:

A work control program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program logic stored therein for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line by the use of a template file in which is written a standard work time, wherein said computer program logic comprises:

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A step of amending a template file by registering the start-up date of said work steps in a calendar file (see column 5 lines 28-63 and figures 2 and 3; where a user can set the start-up date, finish date, and specific times for an event based off of a template.);

A step of generating a schedule file containing a day's program of said work steps on the basis of the template file as amended (see column 5 lines 28-63 and figures 2 and 3; where an event can be created based on off of a template file. The event has blocks available for inserting information regarding the works steps necessary for the event. A user can input the start and stop dates of the event and can figure these values to include a single day such that the schedule contains the work items for a single day.); and

A step of storing said schedule file in a database accessible through said network (see column 5 lines 28-44 and figure 1; where an electronic calendar is a database that contains events and event groups. This enables events to be scheduled.).

As per claim 14, Schloss teaches:

A work control program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program logic stored therein for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line, wherein said computer program logic comprises:

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A step of obtaining a development project as registered in said network (see column 5 lines 28-63 and figures 2-7; where a user is displayed a project and all of the work item steps in the project.);

A step of determining whether or not a schedule file as prepared corresponding to said development project is updated see column 13 lines 21-67, column 14 lines 1-42, and figures 12A and 12B; where the system checks the dynamic conditions and determines where the conditions have been satisfied or not. The system then updates based on the results of this determination.);

A step of obtaining the latest schedule file as updated when said schedule file is updated (see column 13 lines 21-67, column 14 lines 1-42, and figures 12A and 12B; where the system checks the dynamic conditions and determines where the conditions have been satisfied or not. The system then updates based on the results of this determination. Since these changes are made at the database level, all of those accessing the system will be accessing the database and therefore be receiving the most up to date data. See page 12 of the specification.); and

A step of displaying the latest schedule file as obtained in the form of a flowchart (see column 13 lines 21-67, column 14 lines 1-42, and figures 12A and 12B; where the system checks the dynamic conditions and determines where the conditions have been satisfied or not. The

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system then updates based on the results of this determination. Since these changes are made at the database level, all of those accessing the system will be accessing the database and therefore be receiving the most up to date data. See page 12 of the specification. Figure 12 is a flow chart.).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following are pertinent to the current invention, though not relied upon:

Marchak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6138104) teaches a project management system that manages it stage of the project and aspect of the project.

Nick (U.S. Patent No. 6009406) teaches the implementation of a sales office and manufacturing plant by computer-based spreadsheet tools for scheduling.

Conmy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6101480) teaches a system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of users on a network comprising a database system that stores a profile for each potential invitee of the system at one or more servers.

Giridhar (Giridhar, P.; "The Computerized Project Planning System", *AACE International Transactions*, 1998, pp. 4.1-4.4) teaches a time scheduling and resource scheduling software system.

Aguilera et al. (Aguilera, Luiz Manoel; Penz, Bernard; Song, Heping; Binder, Zdenek; "Design and Implementation of a Scheduling Software System", *International*

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Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics, 1993, pp. 276-282) teaches the design of a scheduling software based on object-oriented concepts.


Aldred (Aldred, Katherine; "Scheduling Software Fits the Mold", *IIE Solutions*, July 1998, pp. 50-51) teaches scheduling software for manufacturing environments.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kalyan K. Deshpande whose telephone number is (571) 272-5880. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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